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No More Unclassified but "Sensitive"

White House Decides to Cool Campus Secrecy Issue

The Administration has been persuaded that the science-and-secrecy issue is needlessly soiling its image in academe, and the White House staff is setting things up for Ronald Reagan to take the high ground as a champion of scientific freedom.

It has not yet been decided whether he will make a public declaration or handle the issue through a White House statement. But whichever way it's done, the net effect will be to drop half-baked plans for identifying "gray areas" between classified and unclassified research in universities and categorizing them as "sensitive," though unclassified (SGR Vol. XIV, No. 8.) Research will be either classified or unclassified, which makes it simple for campus-based grant and contract seekers to conform to their institutions' policies on classified research.

Just what was intended by the addition of "sensitive" to the nuances of secrecy was never made clear. But with some of the Defense Department's favorite universities in turmoil at the prospect of government-imposed secrecy on campus—industry-financed secrecy is, mysteriously, another matter—the White House heeded warnings of purposeless trouble. The main argument from the secrecy-shunning universities, as expressed by the presidents of MIT, Stanford and Caltech recently, was that their institutions won't do classified research on campus, no matter how it's labeled. And they were getting very wrought up about it.

Knapp Quits as NSF Director; IBM Exec to Fill Post—Page 2

The most telling argument for backing down came from the White House Science Office, which insisted that an issue of very little substance was being permitted to generate a great deal of ideological heat. Few projects, it was pointed out, would warrant the "sensitive" label. But in those cases where it was deemed suitable, it wouldn't be acceptable at universities that prohibit classified research. So, for no gain whatever, the Administration was irritating an articulate community in an election year.

The first official sign of a turnaround came on May 24 when Edith Martin, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, told a hearing of the House Science and Technology Committee that DoD had abandoned "gray areas" and "sensitive" as working concepts. Instead, she said, DoD-supported projects would be classified or unclassified.

Her testimony came as a surprise, for as recently as April 17, Martin stood her ground at the DoD-University Forum—a twice-yearly gathering of academic brass and senior defense research officials—as several university presidents and her own boss assailed and ridiculed the concept of "sensitive" but unclassified.

The mechanics of this remarkable conversion are not

(Continued on page 2)

In Brief

Supporters of the Department of Agriculture's politically restrained competitive basic research grants program are looking to the Senate for relief once again following a new twist this year by Rep. Jamie Whitten (D-Miss.), Chairman of the Appropriations Committee and its Agriculture Subcommittee. Whitten, who's clobbered the program year after year, okayed a boost of $15 million—rather than the $33 million requested. But he made big cuts in biotechnology and added funds for a favorite of his, animal-health research. Whitten says basic research is speculative while applied deals with farm problems that are here and now.

Resentful over the Administration's resistance to providing additional funds for science and mathematics education, the House Appropriations Committee is trying to hold hostage one of the Administration's most-favored programs in the National Science Foundation: the Very Long Baseline Array, a revolutionary radio telescope with sites right across the American continent. The Committee decreed there's to be no money to start the project next year unless NSF devotes 8.5 percent of its fiscal '86 budget to education. It's doubtful that the restriction will hold up in conference with the Republican Senate, but it does signal the growing resentment toward the Administration's bargain-basement exploitation of the education issue.

Sign of the Times: Membership in the Society of University Patent Administrators has passed the 300 mark. The Society, which seeks to generate income from research on campus, started in 1975 with 51 members.

Knapp Resigns as NSF Director After 18 Months

With an announcement released June 6 while he was abroad, Edward A. Knapp slipped out of the directorship of the National Science Foundation after 18 months in the post, the shortest reign in the NSF's 34-year history. He's going back to physics at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, where he spent 20 years before joining NSF. And thus ends the Washington tale of a nice guy who was both baffled and exasperated by the capital's peculiar ways of doing business.

Knapp's replacement will be the first NSF chief ever drawn from industry, Erich Bloch, 59, a career-long IBM veteran, trained as an electrical engineer. Bloch, who has held several senior research-management posts with IBM, is currently the company's Vice President for Technical Personnel Development. His nomination for the NSF post, by statute a six-year presidential appointment, was announced by the White House along with Knapp's resignation.

As recently as two weeks ago, the word around NSF and the White House Science Office was that Bloch had been chosen to fill NSF's long-vacant No. 2 position, Deputy Director, and that his nomination was about to emerge from the customarily slow White House review process. Though Knapp is said to have submitted his resignation to the White House on May 11, it came as a surprise to virtually everyone—including at least one Assistant Director who came on board recently after being recruited by Knapp.

Appointed Director of NSF in November 1982 after having served there for six months as Assistant Director for the Mathematical and Physical Sciences, Knapp got off to a highly publicized bad start as Director by firing a Deputy Director (who was leaving anyway) and an Assistant Director on the grounds that he wanted his "own team." Several of his predecessors at the Foundation had done the same without incurring any adverse notice—simply by offering their targets the choice of a jump or a push.

But Knapp's action suffered the double liability of his clumsiness and an accompanying cheery report by the the right-wing, Moon-owned *Washington Times* of a political housecleaning at the NSF. Though Knapp had never mixed in politics and, as it turned out, really sought only his own team, the science establishment responded to alerts about a possibly dangerous man having been put in charge of the sacred bank for academic basic research. The report drew vitality from politically inspired events at NSF that preceded his arrival—the Administration's unilateral gutting of NSF social science programs, which had long aroused the ire of right-wing cranks. The situation was further irritated by the fact that Knapp was virtually unknown in Washington and his Carter-appointed predecessor, John B. Slaughter, the first black to head NSF, had resigned abruptly to take an academic post.

NSF is suppposed to be apolitical, and probably is as much so as any federal agency can be. Nonetheless, while presidential administrations over the years have generally shunned intervention in NSF's central role of supporting the basic "hard" sciences, there are all sorts of items on the NSF periphery—including the social

(Continued on page 3)

. . . Issue of "US Citizens Only" Meetings Still Unsettled

(Continued from page 1)

known. But it is perhaps worth noting that in a Q & A in the previous SGR, Presidential Science Adviser George A. Keyworth II declared, "The debate on high-tech transfer is a thing of the past. Why don't I just leave it there?"

What's not yet clear in this policy turnaround is how far it will extend down the various alleyways of the science-and-secrecy issue, a matter that's said to be under staff review at the National Security Council. A White House source tells SGR that the revised policy is not likely to end the practice of hanging out "US Citizens Only" signs on certain professional meetings, particularly in electronics and materials. But he insisted that the restrictions on attendance are rare and long predate the Reagan Administration. What's different now, he insisted, is that the press is sensitive to what it previously ignored.

A related issue is a series of confused, off-and-on restrictions concerning foreign students, faculty, and visitors in advanced research programs in American universities. Does the Martin pronouncement suggest relaxation in that area? There's no word on that, but our White House source remarked that foreigners must be viewed as an asset to American science and technology, and that the evolving policy would reflect that perception.

Also unclear is whether the reversal of the hardcore line on academic matters signals an easing of high-tech export controls. Arguments go back and forth on whether the increasingly onerous customs war against banned exports really makes very much difference to the Soviets, who obviously want the stuff, but aren't tying their fates to it.

There's no doubt, however, that many American businessmen are enraged by European and Asian competitors picking up Soviet orders that they're forbidden to fill. Is change in the works there, too? No unprecedented feat of ideological acrobatics would be required for a turnaround on that issue.

. . . Gaps Still Remain in Foundation's Top Ranks

(Continued from page 2)

sciences and minority science programs—that invariably are tinged by the flavor of the White House. If they're tinged too much, the establishment succumbs to a hallucinatory disorder known as the Galileo Syndrome, which conjures up the doom of science.

Obviously astonished by the outcry that followed the dismissals, Knapp tended to ambiguity on whether the firings reflected the wishes of the White House or had been encouraged by his Los Alamos alumnus, George A. Keyworth II, the President's Science Adviser. But what was surely clear is that he was in trouble, and close associates said that even before he was sworn in, he was thinking of going back to the peace of Los Alamos, where he had been head of the Accelerator Technology Division.

What seems likely about the awkward and unseemly ousters that Knapp decreed is that he and those who recruited him for the directorship talked it over, and agreed that new blood would be desirable. But there's never been any evidence that an ideological tilt was dictated to Knapp or that he intended one. While the uproar continued, Knapp, in a long interview with SGR (Vol. XIII, No. 1), ruefully described himself as "perhaps a little naive," adding that at the Department of Energy, which runs the Los Alamos Laboratory, "The assistant secretaries always leave when a new Secretary of Energy comes in . . . I had incorrectly assumed that the Foundation operated on the same basis." Knapp issued assurances of a pristine selection process to fill the vacancies that he had created, as well as several others that had nothing to do with his arrival. But, for reasons that never became clear, well over a year went by before Knapp got the first members of his "own team." Even as he leaves there are still gaps from his first days in office.

While a search for new NSF executives went on, Knapp remained the only Presidential appointee in the six presidential slots at the Foundation. The others, that of Deputy Director and four assistant directors, were filled on a acting basis by old hands at NSF—a situation embarrassing to Knapp and uncomfortable for the temporary appointees. Knapp had to insist to increasingly querulous Congressmen that NSF was running just fine with his pick-up crew. Meanwhile, he had to work with and rely on people deemed unsuitable for regular appointments to the jobs in which they were said to be performing outstandingly.

The slow pace of filling the NSF slots was a source of agony for Knapp and an affront to Presidential Adviser Keyworth, since it reflected on his ability to get things

(Continued on page 4)

Knapp the World Traveler

The announcement of Edward A. Knapp's resignation after 18 months as Director of the National Science Foundation was made while he was on a three-week trip to Finland, Sweden, Denmark, and Norway—one of a number of international travels that, on a time-in-office basis, probably make him the most widely traveled of NSF directors.

According to NSF, Knapp's Scandinavian trip was, in part, "At the invitation of senior Swedish and Finnish science officials" and was also for the purpose of "official visits to Norway and Denmark for meetings with key members of the respective scientific communities and for site visits."

From June 18 to July 4, 1983, Knapp visited West Germany, Switzerland, and France to meet officials of their science organizations and sign the renewal of a science-cooperation agreement with France.

From October 21 to November 7, 1983, he visited France, Switzerland, West Germany, Greece and Egypt to meet with officials and participate in various discussions and ceremonial proceedings.

From March 21-24, 1984, he went on a four-day visit to Japan as part of an official delegation headed by Presidential Science Adviser George A. Keyworth II. Four days after returning from that trip, Knapp left for South America, where he visited Argentina, Chile, Brazil, and Peru, returning on April 16.

Other foreign travels during his directorship include a 10-day trip to China in May 1983 as a member of a large official delegation.

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NSF Nominee Experienced in Industry-Academic Links

Erich A. Bloch, the nominee for heading the National Science Foundation, has had little direct experience with Washington science-policy affairs or the National Science Foundation. But his background appears readymade for the Administration's policy of encouraging closer ties between academe and industry.

His responsibilities as IBM Vice President for Technical Personnel Development include the company's extensive links with university researchers. He is also Chairman of the Semiconductor Research Cooperative, a consortium of computer and electronic firms that finances research in universities. In addition, he is a member of the National Academy of Engineering, where he serves on several committees, including one concerned with engineering education.

Bloch, who is a German-born naturalized US citizen, was trained at the Federal Polytechnic of Zurich and joined IBM in 1952 after receiving an engineering degree from the University of Buffalo.

He worked on supercomputer systems for the next decade, and in 1962 became head of the solid logic technology program, which developed the microelectronic technology for the System/360 computer. In 1968, Bloch became Director of IBM's Poughkeepsie Laboratory, and two years later was appointed Vice President for Operations for IBM Components Division. Next came the vice presidency of IBM's Data Systems Division and appointment as General Manager of the East Fishkill Facility, which develops and manufactures semiconductors for IBM products.

In greeting his appointment, Roland C. Schmitt, Chairman of the policymaking National Science Board at NSF, praised Bloch for "an understanding of the dependence of industry on academic research for trained people as well as research results." Schmitt also said that Bloch has "extensive personal experience with managing large, multi-disciplinary groups engaged in forefront science and engineering."

Knapp

(Continued from page 3)

done in the White House. But neither could stir quick action from the White House Office of Personnel Management, which monitors senior appointments, or the FBI security-checking process, which moves slowly in screening what it regards as lesser appointments. On several occasions, suitable candidates were reported close to emerging from the system, but never did. The explanation for some of those episodes is that so much time passed between invitation, acceptance, and the official come-ahead that the candidates got involved in other career moves or found NSF's timing out of synch with their current commitments or family's preferences.

The irony of Knapp's brief stay at NSF is that it's now generally acknowledged in Washington science-policy circles that his poor start has diverted attention from a capable performance as Director. Members and, more important, staffs of the Congressional committees that preside over NSF affairs quickly realized that Knapp cared a great deal about scientific quality and nothing whatever about politics or ideology. (In the five years preceding his appointment, his political involvement consisted of $85 contributed to Republican candidates in New Mexico.)

Like many of his predecessors at NSF, Knapp put through an internal reorganization, this one designed to give NSF's disciplinary divisions greater authority over various ancillary functions that Congress has assigned the Foundation—such as industry-academic R&D collaboration and encouraging minority participation in research. But these shuffles, though of great interest to the bureaucracy that lives with them, do not seem to have had much effect on NSF's operations. In line with the Reagan Administration's aversion to equal-opportunity actions by federal agencies, NSF has reduced its helping role in these areas, but one gets the sense that Knapp considers the minority function an important one.

The NSF budget rose 38 percent during Knapp's directorship, a point that was noted in a friendly goodbye statement by Roland W. Schmitt, GE Senior Vice President, who recently became Chairman of the National Science Board, NSF's top policy body. But it must be noted that the political weather was good for science budgets; furthermore, some of that growth occurred in a budget cycle that was nearly completed when Knapp became Director.

Keyworth's goodbye statement lauded Knapp for "emphasis on supporting the highest quality research, on programs to marry the experience and resources of industry with the expertise of universities, and on changes in the way NSF approaches engineering education and research."

Keyworth also stated that Knapp's "continued leadership at NSF would have been most welcome, but I respect his decision to return to New Mexico and wish him well."

In his resignation statement, Knapp said he wants to return to research in physics, and that rings true. Unlike his predecessors, Knapp actually tried to stay in touch with his own field of research by maintaining a role—a small one, he concedes—in an experiment at CERN with which he was involved prior to his appointment.—DSG

NOAA: White House Aides Foresee Budget Relief

Hints of brighter days for the financially battered National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminstration (NOAA) were offered June 5 at a Senate confirmation hearing for two associate directors of the White House Office of Science and Technology (OSTP). In addition, the hearing produced yet another restatement of an unfulfilled ambition going back to Eisenhower's days—a larger role for the White House Science Office in the affairs of the National Institutes of Health, whose political lifelines have traditionally run directly to Capitol Hill.

The hearing, friendly but searching, was for staffers who have been on board at OSTP for at least six months while the nominating process inched on—John P. McTague, a physicist formerly at UCLA and the Brookhaven National Laboratory, where he was Chairman of the National Synchrotron Light Source Department, and Bernadine H. Bulkley, Professor of Medicine at John Hopkins Medical School and Director of the Coronary Care Unit at the Hopkins Hospital. By statute, McTague and Bulkley bear the title of Associate Director. But, the way things are arranged at OSTP, each will be a Deputy Director in the office's table of organization—with McTague handling the physical sciences and related matters and Bulkley looking after the biomedical field and, in particular, associated regulatory issues.

With Senator Slade Gorton (R-Wash) presiding as Chairman for the confirmation hearing, before the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, Bulkley and McTague alternated in answering questions. Responding to Gorton, who expressed concern about the budgetary misfortunes of NOAA, Bulkley acknowledged that "NOAA needs more attention, and we recognize that fully . . . There have been substantial cuts, particularly in the research programs," she continued. "There are a number of ways that the problems of the NOAA budget can be righted, and one of them is a little more emphasis on some of the basic research, the extramural grant program in areas of marine biology. There's also some interest in OSTP in possibly fostering a better relationship and more interest in the federal laboratories in regard to research activities in NOAA . . . I can assure you," Bulkley concluded, "that in the [FY] '86 budget, NOAA will receive great attention from OSTP. We've already started working on it, and I hope there will be a noticeable alteration, particularly in the trend of the budgeting."

McTague added that OSTP was studying the missions of the NOAA laboratories and was also looking into "reducing micro-management, and increasing support for appropriate areas . . . . " He described the NOAA review as "a priority item" in OSTP, and predicted "significant improvements in program activities and, hopefully, the budget level . . . "

Three Quit Posts at NIH

Two institute directors and a senior administrator at the National Institutes of Health have recently resigned to take other jobs.

Richard Krause, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectuous Diseases since 1975, has been appointed Dean of the Emory University Medical School, Atlanta. Bernard Talbott has been appointed Acting Director.

Lester B. Salans, Director of the National Institute of Arthritis, Diabetes, and Digestive and Kidney Diseases since 1982, has been appointed Dean of the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, New York. Pierre F. Renault has been appointed Acting Director.

Richard Crout, head of the Office of Medical Applications of Research since last July, has resigned to become a consultant in the Washington area. Crout was formerly Director of the Bureau of Drugs at the Food and Drug Administration. The NIH post will be filled on an acting basis by Itzak Jacoby.

The three movements are attributable to normal comings and goings and, perhaps, the lure of higher pay in academic medicine, and not to any surge of discontent at Bethesda. While many other government research organizations have been feeling the Reagan lash, NIH—thanks to its Congressional guardians—remains one of the happier centers in the federal research establishment.

Asked to discuss her responsibilities in the life sciences, Bulkley said she would be involved in the preparation of the NIH budget, which, she observed, has not "had major input from OSTP . . . at least in the recent past. Our concern is that there be a little more programmatic emphasis with those budgets"—a reference to pinpointing support on specific fields, rather than providing money to keep everyone happy.

"We're also very concerned about biotechnology," Bulkley testified, adding that OSTP chairs a Cabinet Council working group on biotechnology. "We hope to play an active role in facilitating the translation of basic developments to the marketplace."

Asked by Senator Gorton to explain why the Administration has not requested major budget increases for the life sciences, Bulkely said that "part of the explanation is that the areas that fared the best are the ones that are program oriented and do reflect priorities which hopefully reflect the needs of the nation. But I think," she continued, echoing a favorite theme of her boss, Presidential Science Adviser George A. Keyworth II,

(Continued on page 6)

Tennessee Appoints First of New $100,000 Profs

The competition for scientific talent has spawned an academic-federal lab collaboration in Tennessee that aims to hire up to 30 researchers at $100,000 each, plus fringes, and a "discretionary fund of approximately $70,000" apiece.

Jointly operated by the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the program announced its first hirings last week: George F. Bertsch, a nuclear theorist currently at Michigan State University, and Gerald Mahan, a solid-state physicist at Indiana University. Their appointments as UT-ORNL Distinguished Scientists are effective this fall.

The costs are shared equally by the Oak Ridge Laboratory, which is financed by the US Department of Energy, and the State of Tennessee, which recently approved a Better Schools Program that includes funds for a Centers of Excellence Grant. The appointees will divide their time between Oak Ridge and the Knoxville campus. A spokesman for program told SGR that the salaries were the going rate for scientific "stars."

US R&D Seeing Fewer Swiss

The number of Swiss academics coming to the US and Canada for extended stays fell last year to the lowest level since 1970, according to voluntary registrations maintained by the Science and Technology Sections of the Swiss embassies in Washington and Ottawa.

Writing in the *Bulletin* of the Embassy of Switzerland, Christian Risch, who serves as Science and Technology Counselor for both embassies, notes that arrivals last year totaled 95, compared to 177 in 1981 and about 230 in 1970. In the categories of fundamental and applied research, arrivals fell off sharply in recent years—from 111 in 1981 to just 20 last year. The report also states that "The number of [1983] departures exceeds new registrations, as it did in 1982, and this tendency is increasing."

Risch told SGR that there's no readily visible explanation for the decline, but he speculated that it's probably linked to tight job situations in Switzerland and North America.

NY Mayor Names Science Commission

A 21-member Mayor's Commission for Science and Technology has been established by Mayor Edward Koch to promote scientific activities in New York and to make nominations for an annual Award of Honor for Science and Technology. Bernard W. Harleston, President of City College, has been appointed Chairman. The Vice Chairman is William T. Golden, long active in the New York Academy of Sciences and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

NSF Picks Social Science Head

Roberta B. Miller, Executive Director of the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA), is moving next week to the National Science Foundation to direct the Division of Social and Economic Sciences.

COSSA, which now comprises the major scholarly and professional organizations in the social and behavioral sciences, existed pre-Reagan Administration on an informal basis. It became energized, and opened its Washington office, with Miller as the first Executive Director, when the newly installed Administration gutted the social-science research budgets of NSF and various other agencies. COSSA set up a din about the fiscal misfortunes of its constituents' research programs. The Reaganite zealots held firm, but COSSA's diligent lobbying won many supporters on Capitol Hill. The budget mayhem has stopped, but COSSA itself points out that the cuts were so deep that many social-science research programs are yet to regain their 1980 purchasing power.

R&D Policy Researcher Steps Down

James M. McCullough, Chief of the Science Policy Research Division of the Congressional Research Service for the past five years, is stepping down from that post to resume fulltime research there in life-sciences policy.

OSTP

(Continued from page 5)

"there's been a tendency to treat the NIH budget more as an entitlement rather than from a perspective of priorities and initiatives. As a result, there tends to be across-the-board increases rather than targeted increases for special programs or special initiatives. This is something which the OSTP is quite concerned about and hopes that in the . . . fiscal year '86 budget that there will be some changes."

The two appointees provide some assurance that Republican zealotry does not figure in recruitment of staff for the White House Science Office. Under "political affiliation" in the biographical materials she submitted to the Committee, Bulkley listed only one item: "$25 donation to the Republican National Committee." McTague, under "Political Affiliations and Activities," listed $265 in contributions to Republican Congressional campaigns spread over 1982, 1983, and 1984, and identified himself as a "Registered Democrat 1974-81" and "Registered Independent 1982."

In Print: New Pubs on Physics, Medicine, Etc.

High Energy Physics Facilities, off the press, at last, text, plus additional material, from hearings in October 1983 before the House Science and Technology Subcommittee on Energy Development and Applications; discussion covers the goliath Superconducting Super Collider, now under study, and other facilities; an appendix contains a decade's worth of recommended construction agendas for high-energy physics.

(654 pages, no charge, available from Subcommittee on Energy Development and Applications, B-374 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515; tel. 202/225-4320.)

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Medical Incunabula and the Diffusion of Scientific Knowledge, booklet containing instructive text and fascinating reproductions published to accompany an exhibit of the National Library of Medicine's collection of medical incunabula—works printed with movable type before 1501.

(14 pages, no charge, Office of Inquiries, National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, Md. 20209; tel. 301/496-6308.)

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Medical Physics Glossary, defines several hundred words and phrases, from "absorbed dose" to "zeugmatography," relating to the linkage of physics and medicine.

(32 pages, $3 each or $2 apiece for 10 or more, from Public Information Division, American Institute of Physics, 335 East 45th St., New York, NY 10017.)

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Research Pathways to Modern Medicine: Ninth Report of the Director, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, (NIH Publication 84-2335), a glossy, magazine-format production, prepared for the Congress, tells about the institute's history and programs, with emphasis on research on hypertension, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and hepatitis.

(90 pages, single copies available without charge from Office of Information, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, Box 9, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Md. 20205.)

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Federal Support for R&D and Innovation, a study by the Congressional Budget Office, a concise and generally neutral review of the federal role in R&D, but makes a pitch for more international collaboration both for economy and for "increasing the tempo of scientific progress and boosting the growth prospects of the world economy." On who should run science, the study states, "It would probably be counterproductive to bureaucratize the R&D effort, allowing non-specialists the final say in evaluating and thus controling specific scientific projects. It may be just as counterproductive, however, to assume that the specialist community will structure the R&D effort in order to maximize social, as opposed to parochial benefits."

(107 pages, no charge, available from Congressional Budget Office, House Annex 2, Second and D Sts. Sw., Washington, DC 20515; tel. 202/226-2600.)

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Federal Technology Catalog, 1983, Summaries of Practical Technology (PB84-105634/TCH), produced by the Center for the Utilization of Federal Technology, provides information, and tells how to get more, about federally developed technologies in 21 fields, including the life sciences, energy, electrotechnology, and testing and instrumentation.

(212 pages, $23.50, available from National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Va. 22161; tel. 703/487-4600.)

NAS Calls Off Moscow Visit

After a lot of handwringing and writhing under hostile editorial fire from the *Washington Post* and the *Wall Street Journal,* the National Academy of Sciences has set aside plans to send a delegation to Moscow for discussions with the chiefs of the Soviet Academy.

The proposed visit was announced in April by Academy President Frank Press, who was to head the American delegation. Press said the visit was to tied Academy members' concerns about the arms race and diminishing communications between the two countries, but he also cautioned the Soviets about a backlash from the continuing persecution of Andrei Sakharov. The two newspapers immediately raked Press and the Academy for what they regarded as an ill-advised gesture to the Soviets.

After deliberations among the Academy elders, Press cabled the Soviets June 7, putting off the visit "until a climate more favorable for positive dicussions exists."

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R&D at EPA: "Organization Does Not Make Sense"

From "Steps Toward a Stable Future," a report on the Environmental Protection Agency by a 10-member panel appointed by the National Academy of Public Administration at the request of EPA Administrator William D. Ruckelshaus:*

The [EPA's] R&D organization does not make sense. The agency inherited laboratories scattered across a dozen states. Unfortunately past recommendations to consolidate the Agency's 14 laboratories have met resistance from EPA's research employes and Congress.

Although we believe that consolidation is but one avenue to improving R&D management, we do favor appropriate consolidations as circumstances permit. Specifically, we favor concentrating EPA's multi-discipline research activities at the Agency's Cincinnati, Ohio, and Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, centers, with center directors reporting directly to the Assistant Administrator for Research and Development, in Washington [a post that the panel would elevate to a Presidential appointment, of at least five or six years, or put into the Senior Executive Service, which presumably provides some insulation against political pressures.]

We believe that R&D should have its own budget, should be directed to concentrate on broader problems and pursue science beyond the narrow needs of individually funded programs, and should constitute an integral component of the Agency. Moreover, we recommend that Congress pass enabling legislation specifically authorizing basic and interdisciplinary environmental research within EPA to serve the Agency as a whole and the permanent interests of environmental protection across the nation.

*The panel was chaired by a veteran of senior service in various government agencies, Frank C. Carlucci, who is currently Chairman of Sears World Trade, Inc. Members included various Washington operators. "Steps Toward a Stable Future," 17 pages, will be available, without charge, in about two weeks from National Academy of Public Administration, 1120 G St. NW., Suite 540, Washington, DC 20005; tel. 202/347-3190.

OSTP Takes Radiation Role

Three federal committees concerned with radiation research have been absorbed by a newly created committee within the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

The new creation, titled the Committee on Interagency Radiation Research Policy Coordination, replaces the Interagency Radiation Research Committee, the Radiation Policy Council, and a committee of the Federal Coordinating Council for Science, Engineering, and Technology. Alvin L. Young, of the OSTP staff, chairs the new committee.

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